

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A suture anchor comprising:

a bone anchoring portion; and

a suture securing portion coupled to the bone anchoring portion, the suture securing portion having an eyelet through which a suture is threaded, wherein the eyelet has a titanium anodize surface finish, the surface finish including a penetration layer produced by a titanium anodize process and exposed after a removable build-up layer is removed, and such that there is no dimensional change of the eyelet after the surface finish is applied ~~provided by a first coating process that increases the life of the suture.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the surface finish increases the life if the suture and reduces wear ~~first coating process is a titanium-anodize process.~~

- 3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the surface finish increases lubricity of the eyelet.

8. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the surface finish increases fatigue strength of the eyelet.

9. (Currently Amended) The suture anchor of claim 2, wherein the bone anchoring portion has a titanium anodize surface finish including a penetration layer produced by a titanium anodize process and exposed after a removable build-up layer is removed, such that there is no dimensional change of the bone anchoring portion after the surface finish is applied ~~provided by a second coating process.~~

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the bone anchoring portion includes anchoring formations.

13. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 12, wherein the anchoring formations are selected from the group consisting of barbs, ridges, threads, grooves and spikes.

14. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the bone anchoring portion is integral with the suture securing portion.

15. (Original) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the bone anchoring portion and the suture securing portion are separate portions.

16. (Currently Amended) The suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture anchoring portion has a titanium anodize surface finish ~~provided by the first coating process.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A method of surface treatment for a suture anchor, the method comprising:

providing a bone anchoring portion coupled to a suture securing portion;
forming a suture eyelet in the suture securing portion for passing a suture;
treating the eyelet with a titanium anodize process;
creating a penetration layer on the eyelet;
creating a soft build-up layer above the penetration layer;
removing the build-up layer; and
exposing the penetration layer defining an eyelet surface finish

~~first coating process that provides a surface finish, the surface finish increasing the life of a suture threaded through the eyelet.~~

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the surface finish increases the life of the suture threaded through the eyelet.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the surface finish reduces wear of the suture.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the surface finish increases lubricity of the eyelet.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the surface finish does not result in a dimensional change of the eyelet.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the surface finish increases fatigue strength of the eyelet.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the bone anchoring portion is integral with the suture securing portion.

26. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the bone anchoring portion includes anchoring formations.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising treating the suture securing portion with a titanium anodize process ~~the first coating process.~~

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising treating the bone anchoring portion with a titanium anodize process ~~second coating process that provides a surface finish.~~

31. (Currently Amended) A suture anchoring system comprising:

a suture anchor including a bone anchoring portion and a suture securing portion coupled to the bone anchoring portion, the suture securing portion having an eyelet;

a suture threaded through the eyelet; and

an eyelet titanium anodize surface finish, the surface finish including a penetration layer produced by a titanium anodize process and exposed after a removable build-up layer is removed, and such that there is no dimensional change of the eyelet after the surface finish is applied that increases the life of the suture, ~~the surface finish provided by a first coating process.~~

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Original) The suture anchoring system of claim 31, wherein the bone anchoring portion is integral with the suture securing portion.

35. (Original) The suture anchoring system of claim 31, wherein the bone anchoring portion includes anchoring formations.

36. (Original) The suture anchoring system of claim 31, wherein the surface finish does not result in a dimensional change of the eyelet.

37. (Currently Amended) The suture anchoring system of claim 31, wherein the suture securing portion has a titanium anodize surface finish ~~that is provided by the first coating process.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The suture anchoring system of claim 31, wherein the bone anchoring portion has a titanium anodize surface finish ~~that is provided by a second coating process.~~

~~39~~ 40. (Currently Amended) The suture anchoring system of claim 31, wherein the suture anchor has a titanium anodize surface finish ~~that is provided by the first coating process.~~